# Strategic Plan for the South Moresby Forest Replacement Account

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# Strategic Plan for the South Moresby Forest Replacement Account

APPROVED BY THE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SMFRA)
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# STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE SOUTH MORESBY FOREST REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT

## I. INTRODUCTION

The South Moresby Forest Replacement Account (SMFRA) is a joint initiative of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to enhance timber production and employment in coastal British Columbia, particularly in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Account will be expended **to help offset the reduction in timber supply** resulting from the creation of the South Moresby National Park and **to restore employment** in the forest sector at least until the full economic benefits of the park are realized. It is the desire of Canada and British Columbia to maximize employment for residents of the Queen Charlottes from SMFRA Enhanced Forest Management Projects.

SMFRA was created under the authority of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Province of British Columbia for the establishment of South Moresby National Park and National Marine Park, Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. July 12, 1988 and the SMFRA will therefore adhere to the intent as well as the terms and conditions of the aforementioned Memorandum of Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the South Moresby Agreement).

Canada and British Columbia have each deposited $12 million into the SMFRA totalling $24 million which together with accrued interest will be maintained by B.C. The Account expires on March 31, 1996, but may be extended if all funds have not been spent by that date. Over the next 8 years, the SMFRA fund will be used to undertake Enhanced Forest Management Projects to improve forest yields and to maintain jobs in forestry. Such enhanced forest management enhancement projects ( backlog and intensive ) include but are not limited to the following:

- inventory
- surveys, prescriptions and layout
- seeds and seedlings
- site preparation/rehabilitation
- tree planting
- brushing
- juvenile spacing
- fertilization
- pest management
- implementation
- research, extension and demonstration
- communications and public information

Half or more of the SMFRA in accordance with Section 37.9(b), (c) and (d)of the South Moresby Agreement will be spent on projects in the Queen Charlotte Islands; the remainder will be available for projects in the rest of the coastal forests of the Province. The Account is intended to supplement rather than replace ongoing, committed forestry programs. Projects may be undertaken on any productive forest lands which are committed to long-term forest management, including provincial Timber Supply Areas, Tree Farm Licences, and in the Queen Charlottes, private lands, Indian Reserves, lands held by municipalities, and federal holdings. Priority will be given to projects and treatments which provide the best combination of increased timber production and employment. All work undertaken through the SMFRA will be in accordance with Canada's National Forest Sector Strategy.

The forest industry and the public at large in the Queen Charlotte Islands will be given the opportunity to provide input into the most effective ways of spending the funds of the Account to mitigate the reduction in timber supply and forestry jobs resulting from the establishment of the South Moresby National Park.

## II. MANAGEMENT

Canada and British Columbia have established a committee to manage the Account. The SMFRA Management Committee is composed of four voting members (two appointed by each government) with two of the voting members acting as co-chairpersons (one from each government). As well, Canada and British Columbia shall each appoint one non-voting, observer member.

Management Committee decisions shall be made in writing by its voting members. If in respect of any matter or issue the voting members are not unanimous, such matter or issue will be referred for decision to the federal and provincial Ministers responsible for Forestry.

The members of the Management Committee are:

| For Canada | | For British Columbia | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Director General<br>Forestry Canada<br>Pacific and Yukon Region<br>Victoria | (Co-Chairman) | Chief Forester<br>Ministry of Forests<br>Victoria | (Co-Chairman) |
| Senior Program Director - Development<br>Forestry Canada<br>Victoria | | Director<br>Silviculture Branch<br>Ministry of Forests<br>Victoria | |

The Management Committee shall ensure that the SMFRA is being administered and implemented in an effective manner in accordance with the Agreement between Canada and British Columbia for the establishment of the South Moresby National Park and National Marine Park dated July 12, 1988. For such purposes, the Committee shall:

- review and approve the Strategic Plan for the SMFRA,
- review and approve any and all Annual Implementation Plans submitted to the Management Committee by British Columbia,
- annually (for each year of Account) authorize the limit of expenditure from the SMFRA for each and every Enhanced Forest Management Project authorized in an approved Annual Implementation Plan,
- monitor the implementation by British Columbia of all Enhanced Forest Management Projects contained in an approved Annual Implementation Plan, and
- provide an Annual Report to the provincial and federal Ministers responsible for forestry for each Year of Account within 90 days of the end of each year of Account.

British Columbia has appointed the Regional Manager of the Vancouver Forest Region to:

a) prepare and submit to the Management Committee for approval a proposed Strategic Plan for the SMFRA by March 31, 1989,

b) prepare and submit for approval to the Management Committee Annual Implementation Plans, on or before the first day of each Year of Account. Such proposed Plans together with supporting documentation will be circulated to Forestry Canada 30 days prior to submission to the Management Committee,

c) revise (within 30 days) each Annual Implementation Plan as directed by the Management Committee and then implement the projects in such amended Plan, when and as approved by the Management Committee,

d) requisition project expenditures from the SMFRA in accordance with each approved Annual Implementation Plan and the projects authorized therein. Individual project budgets may be exceeded by 15% by the Vancouver Regional Manager, with the requirement to reduce other project budgets by amounts equal to such excesses (see clause 38(3)(e) of the South Moresby Agreement),

e) implement and monitor, assess and evaluate each authorized Enhanced Forest Management Project using the criteria established by the Management Committee,

f) jointly with Forestry Canada develop and implement a public information program regarding the SMFRA— such an information program to be approved by the Management Committee prior to implementation,

g) maintain proper records with respect to the administration, implementation and financial accounts of each and every SMFRA project — such records to be open and available for audit, inspection and copying by the Management Committee and/or representatives of Canada,

h) prepare and submit for approval to the Management Committee an Annual Report for each Year of Account within 60 days of the end of each Year of Account, and

i) perform other related functions which may be assigned by the Management Committee.

## III. ADMINISTRATION

Once the Strategic Plan and subsequent Annual Implementation Plans have been approved by the Management Committee, the Regional Manager of the Vancouver Forest Region shall implement and administer the authorized Enhanced Forest Management Projects in accordance with the Management Committee's criteria and in compliance with the South Moresby Agreement.

The Vancouver Regional Manager shall initiate and administer authorized projects on TSA and TFL lands (excluding licensee obligations) using standard Ministry of Forests' procedures.

Forestry Canada on behalf of Canada will coordinate, plan and bring forward to the Vancouver Regional Manager proposals for SMFRA projects on private, municipal, federal and Indian lands so that such project proposals may be part of each proposed Annual Implementation Plan submitted to the Management Committee for approval.

Forestry Canada shall implement projects on private, municipal, federal and Indian lands, according to the FRDA approved procedures (1985-90 Canada-B.C. Forest Resource Development Agreement )with funds provided from the SMFRA.

General procedures and requirements for administration of the SMFRA include:

- In submitting each Annual Implementation Plan to the Management Committee for approval, the Vancouver Regional Manager will provide documentation containing sufficient information for the assessment of each project proposal including, where applicable, the purpose, objectives, cost, anticipated completion date and any other information which the Management Committee may require,

- Where project plans are normally referred to other provincial and federal agencies for advice on environmental protection, and concerns are expressed by these agencies that there is a potential for environmental damage, the results of such referrals shall be documented in each proposed Annual Implementation Plan,

- All contracts implemented under the SMFRA shall be awarded pursuant to tenders invited by public advertisement and awarded to the qualified and responsible tenderer submitting the lowest evaluated bid, unless recommended for approval by the Vancouver Regional Manager in accordance with procedures approved by the Management Committee,

- In accordance with human rights legislation of Canada and the Province, there shall be no discrimination by reason of race, sex, age, marital status, national origin, colour, religion, or political affiliation in the employment of persons,

- Recruitment of labour shall be conducted through the offices of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission unless the Management Committee considers that it is not practicable,

- Rates of pay for all areas of employment shall take into account differences in work classification, provincial labour codes and standards, provincial policy and guidelines on employment opportunity, and shall be subject to the minimum wage specified in provincial legislation,

- Canadian material, machinery and equipment, contractors, consultants and other professional services shall be used in respect of all work under the SMFRA to the extent of which it is procurable and consistent with economy and efficiency as determined by the Management Committee, and

- Reports, documents, plans, maps and other material resulting from activities and projects under the SMFRA shall become the property of Canada and British Columbia.

## IV. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

The management committee shall present an annual audit of expenditures to Ministers by December 31 of the following fiscal year. The costs of these audits will be borne by the SMFRA.

The monies deposited in the SMFRA plus any accrued interest will be used only for funding Enhanced Forest Management Projects as authorized by the Management Committee and to reimburse British Columbia for authorized Costs of Implementation (which will not exceed 8% of the SMFRA expenditures in any Account Year).

The Management Committee shall authorize all expenditures from the SMFRA during the Account Period. The eligible costs of projects shall include all direct costs which in the opinion of the Management Committee have been reasonably and properly incurred and paid for the implementation and audit of these projects.

Any discrepancy between amounts paid by British Columbia and amounts actually payable by it, as disclosed by any audit, shall be promptly adjusted by British Columbia.

## V. MONITORING

Any member or representative(s) of the Management Committee shall be permitted to inspect any project at all reasonable times for the purpose of evaluating, monitoring or assessing and obtaining any other information concerning the project which may be required by the Management Committee or the federal and provincial Ministers responsible for forestry.

## VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Any public announcement of programs, activities and projects covered by this Account, as well as any official opening ceremony for any project under the SMFRA, where such ceremony is indicated and appropriate, shall be arranged jointly by Forestry Canada and the Ministry of Forests.

Canada and British Columbia agree to cooperate in the development and implementation of a program of public information respecting the implementation of activities and projects under this Account, and further agree to supply, erect and maintain on the direction of the Management Committee:

- during the course of implementation of cost-shared projects, a project sign or signs consistent with federal/provincial identity graphics guidelines, and in both official languages, specifying that the relevant project is a South Moresby Forest Replacement Account Project, financed by contribu tions from Forestry Canada and the Ministry of Forests of the province of British Columbia or such wording to the like effects as may be agreed upon by the Ministers,

- design a logo in the first year of the Account,

- advertisements or announcements of contracts will be made jointly by Canada and the Province,

- prepare a public information brochure in the first year of the Agreement, and

- issue jointly an annual report as part of the communications and public information plan.

Information session(s) will be arranged in the Queen Charlotte Islands. These session(s) will take place prior to September 30, 1989 and their purpose will be to:

- inform residents and the forest industry about the SMFRA, and

- solicit input from the residents and the forest industry.

Thereafter, information sessions will be held at least annually to inform the public and industry about progress under the SMFRA and to solicit further input.

The South Moresby National Park's visitor reception and information centres, the offices of Environment Canada and Parks Canada, and the B.C. Ministries of Environment and Forests offices in the Queen Charlotte Islands will be utilized to further inform the public about the SMFRA and its results.

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The intent of both the Environmental Assessment and Review Process and the Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment Policy shall be followed for all projects under the SMFRA.

## VIII. ENHANCED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Only Enhanced Forest Management Projects which are incremental to the ongoing programs of Forestry Canada and the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry's licensees are eligible for funding from the SMFRA. All projects will be carried out according to Ministry of Forests standards, accomplishments will be recorded in accordance with Ministry of Forests procedures.

***Inventory***

Special inventories and the updating of forest inventories have been identified as a high priority. For example; these inventories would provide:

- a sound basis for planning and priorizing SMFRA projects,
- up-to-date data upon which to plan timber harvesting and silviculture in the future,
- an opportunity to carry out and incorporate terrain classification and mapping into the TSA's inventory,
- the mapping of sensitive sites,
- the monitoring of growth and yield plots for treatment response, and
- an opportunity to incorporate the results, recommendations and techniques of the Fish/Forestry Interaction Program into forest development and planning in the TSA.

***Surveys, Prescriptions and Layout***

Prior to conducting operational projects, it is essential to properly identify areas requiring treatment and provide a decision-making mechanism to prescribe treatment. Such surveys and prescriptions will be conducted by professional foresters and forest technicians according to Ministry of Forests standards and specifications.

***Seeds and Seedlings***

Tree seed purchases for SMFRA projects will be identified by the Vancouver Regional Manager.

Sowing requests for tree seedlings will be arranged as follows:

- Ministry of Forests field personnel will coordinate orders for planting proposed for TSAs and TFLs, and
- Forestry Canada will define seedling needs for private, Indian, municipal and federal lands and coordinate sowing requests through the Vancouver Regional Manager.

Contracts for seedling production will be awarded pursuant to public tendering unless otherwise approved by the Management Committee.

***Site Preparation/Rehabilitation***

Backlog areas are generally defined as those which have not regenerated within site-specific, acceptable regeneration delay periods. Site preparation is defined as the preparation necessary on backlog or pest-damaged areas with unacceptable ground cover to bring these areas to a condition receptive to planting.

This may involve stand conversion by prescribed burning, slashing, residual felling, and mechanical or chemical methods. Some backlog areas may be planted with a minimum of treatment, but some form of site rehabilitation will be essential on virtually all backlog lands.

***Tree Planting***

Regional guidelines have been prepared for minimum and target stocking standards by subzone and ecotype. Planting levels are prescribed to attain these standards at the free growing stage as defined in Ministry policies for Basic Silviculture or those standards specified for a Tree Farm Licence.

Payments to contractors will be based on Planting Quality Inspection Procedures outlined in the Ministry of Forests' Silviculture Manual.

The planting will normally be performed by silvicultural contractors on a competitive bid basis under current B.C. Forest Service procedures. Post-planting surveys will be conducted by the Ministry of Forests or by contract to determine planting performance and tree survival.

***Brushing***

Brushing is a cultural treatment to control competing vegetation during the earlier stages of forest growth until the plantation or naturally regenerated stand reaches the free growing stage. It may also include the release of juvenile stands that are experiencing reduced growth due to competition from non-commercial vegetation.

Where undesirable competing vegetation threatens valuable species, brushing will ensure that seedlings reach a free growing stage. As with site preparation a choice of treatment methods exists. Most regenerated backlog areas will require follow-up brushing.

***Juvenile Spacing***

Juvenile spacing involves the reduction of density in young stands to prevent stagnation and maintain or increase the growth rate of leave trees. Juvenile spacing increases average tree size, reduces future logging costs and improves species composition. It may also reduce the length of rotation. Differing leave tree densities may be prescribed at time of spacing depending on wood production objectives and whether subsequent commercial thinning is planned. This treatment will usually occur in stands aged 10-20 years. Pre-commercial thinning and waste thinning are other terms used in this category.

Stand density regimes will be defined by Ministry standards or the appropriate TFL Management and Working Plan. Many stands in the Queen Charlottes have reached the appropriate age for this treatment.

Sanitation spacing may be conducted as part of this activity.

***Fertilization***

Fertilization accelerates tree growth on sites deficient in one or more soil nutrients. Response to fertilization is usually greater when application is done in conjunction with juvenile spacing. The effects of fertilization last about 5-10 years and the treatment may be repeated over the life of a stand.

***Pest Management***

Research and operational trials are required to assess pest implications and improve control techniques. Sitka spruce weevil, blackheaded budworm, dwarf mistletoe, stem diseases and root rots are the main pests of concern.

***Implementation***

This aspect of the SMFRA covers the costs of implementing the Account. The Ministry of Forests expects to contract out much of the development, administration, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Up to 8% of each Account Year's funds may be expended on costs of implementation.

***Research, Extension and Demonstration***

The Vancouver Regional Manager under the direction of the Management Committee will be responsible for implementing a sub-program of Research, Extension and Demonstration projects. In planning and implementing the sub-program, he will be advised by a SMFRA Research Advisory Committee.

This SMFRA committee will be chaired by the Regional Staff Manager of the Vancouver Forest Region and be comprised of representatives from each of the following:

- Ministry of Forests.
- The Forest Industry, and
- Forestry Canada - Pacific Forestry Centre.

Within the guidelines and budget allocations set by the South Moresby Agreement and the SMFRA Management Committee, the Research Advisory Committee will:

- recommend appropriate research directions,
- recommend to the Regional Manager and to the SMFRA Management Committee the annual research program to be funded by the SMFRA,
- monitor the peer review process and research results, and
- develop priorities and mechanisms in support of the research program.

The SMFRA Research Advisory Committee's objectives are to:

- promote research into ways of increasing long-term, sustained productivity of wood volume from coastal forest ecosystems,
- promote research, demonstration, application and implementation of Integrated Forest Resource Management and mass wastage avoidance with particular emphasis on the Fish/Forestry Interaction Program recommendations,
- complement rather than replace existing forest research efforts,
- identify opportunities for improved utilization of alder and other non-commercial species, and
- ensure that (SMFRA) research findings are disseminated through appropriate extension, demonstration and training programs.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the Research Advisory Committee will consider and propose projects within two broad areas:

1. Ecosystem Productivity Enhancement,

   a) Fertilization and Nutrition,

   b) Site Preparation,

   c) Growth and Yield Studies,

   d) Site Disturbance,

   e) Pest Management, and

   f) Tree Improvement.

2. Integrated Resource Management:

   a) Fish/Forestry Interaction,

   b) Harvesting and Land Stability,

   c) Wildlife/Forestry Interaction, and

   d) Social Implications of Integrated Resource Management.

Each proposed project will contain provision for demonstration and extension within the time period of the SMFRA.

## IX. EVALUATION AND AUDIT

This activity will ensure that the terms and conditions of the South Moresby Agreement and the SMFRA are adhered to. Consultant services will be used under tendered contract to assess the work funded by the SMFRA with regard to the stated objectives of the South Moresby Agreement, the provincial forest management planning guidelines and the **National Forest Sector Strategy for Canada.** The terms of reference and timing of this assessment or assessments shall be determined by the Management Committee.

## X. PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The following schedule of planned program activities will be annually reviewed by the Management Committee, and may be adjusted where required to respond to altered circumstances.

### South Moresby Forest Replacement Account

| | % of Account $ | Areas to be Treated (ha) | Cost (millions$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inventory | 5 | N/A | 1.2 |
| Surveys, Prescriptions, Layout | 4 | 80,000 | 1.1 |
| Seeds & Seedlings | 2 | N/A | 0.4 |
| Site Preparation/Rehabilitation | 5 | 1,200 | 1.2 |
| Tree Planting | 2 | 1,200 | 0.4 |
| Brushing | 15 | 7,200 | 3.6 |
| Juvenile Spacing | 40 | 12,000 | 9.6 |
| Fertilization | 8 | 7,700 | 1.9 |
| Pest Management | - | 200 | 0.1 |
| Implementation | 8 | N/A | 1.9 |
| Research, Extension, Demonstration | 10 | N/A | 2.4 |
| Public Information | 1 | N/A | 0.2 |
| Totals | 100 | 109,500* | 24.0** |

* Does not represent 109,500 different hectares.

** Does not include interest on the Account.